

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A wallcovering assembly comprising a base material ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ and at least one ceramic coating ~~[[ (2) ]]~~ comprising ceramic particles selected from the oxides, nitrides, borides or carbides of the metals or semimetals embedded in a matrix consisting of a silicon network linked together by Si-O-Si bridges, wherein

one or more ceramic interlayers are present between the base material and the ceramic layer and

the ceramic interlayer contains particles of an inorganic component comprising essentially at least one component selected from the group consisting of at least one metal, at least one semimetal and at least one mixed metal with at least one element of the third to seventh main group that are bonded by at least one inorganic adhesive to each other and to the layer present underneath the ceramic interlayer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly ~~as per of~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the base material is a nonwoven, a woven, a formed-loop knit, a felt, a film, a paper, ~~which paper can be single- or multi-layered paper, or a wallpaper.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly ~~as per of~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the base material is a sheetlike structure comprising predominantly cellulose fibers, polymeric fibers, glass fibers, metal fibers or ceramic fibers, or is a polymeric film.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the silicon network comprises organic radicals ~~which that~~ are bound to silicon.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly as per of~~ claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ in each case two organic radicals are bound together via ~~[[a]]~~ covalent ~~bond~~ bonds.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly according to at least~~ ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ comprises particles having an average particle size from 1 nm to 1  $\mu$ m for the elementary particles.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly according to at least~~ ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ comprises particles of oxides of the elements Al, Zr, Si, Ti, Ce or Fe.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly according to at least~~ ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ comprises POSS clusters or hydrophobicized silicas as particles.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly according to at least~~ ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ is less than 100  $\mu$ m in thickness.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The wallcovering assembly according to any one~~ ~~of claims 1 to 9~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ is transparent to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength in the region of visible light.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly according to claim 12 of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the ceramic interlayer ~~[[3]]~~ comprises particles of oxides selected from  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  and/or  $\text{SiO}_2$  having an average particle size from 200 nm to 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a silicon network, the silicon of the network being bonded via oxygen atoms to the oxides of the ceramic coating, via organic radicals to the layer underneath the top layer and via at least one chain of carbon atoms to a further silicon.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly according to any one of claims 11 to 13, characterized in that there is of claim 1, further comprising an interlayer ~~which that~~ contains one or more components selected from adhesives, adhesion promoters, binders, dyes and pigments.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wallcovering assembly according to at least one of claims 1 to 14 of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the wallcovering assembly is flexible and can be wound up into a roll.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a wallcovering assembly as ~~per any one of claims 1 to 15 of claim 1, which comprises comprising~~ producing a final ceramic coating ~~[[2]]~~ by a suspension comprising ceramic particles suspended in a polymeric sol produced by mixing at least one silane with an alcohol and an acid being applied to a base material ~~directly or after~~ application of one or more ceramic interlayers and subsequently solidified, wherein

the ceramic interlayer is applied by applying and solidifying a suspension comprising particles of an inorganic component suspended in a sol to the base material or further in ceramic interlayers optionally presented and subsequently solidifying the suspension on and optionally in the base material or the further ceramic layer optionally present, and

the suspension used for producing the ceramic interlayer comprises at least one sol that acts as an inorganic adhesive and comprises at least particles of an inorganic component comprising essentially at least one compound selected from the group consisting of at least one metal, at least one semimetal, and at least one mixed metal with at least one element of the third to seventh main group.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The process according to claim 16, wherein oxides, carbides, nitrides or borides of metals or semimetals are used as ceramic particles.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The process according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein the suspension is solidified by heating when the sol is based on tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), 3-glycidyloxytrimethoxysilane (GLYMO) and/or 3-glycidyloxytriethoxysilane (GLYEO) and/or 3-methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane (MEMO).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The process according to claim 18, wherein a suspension comprising di- or polyols is used.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The process according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the suspension is produced in two steps, a first step of initially producing a mixture of first silane, alcohol and acid, into which mixture the particles are stirred, and a second step of adding to this first component a further silane and/or a diol or polyol as a second component before the suspension is heated.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The process according to claim 20, wherein the suspension is produced in two steps, a first step of initially producing a mixture of GLYEO, alcohol and acid, into which mixture the particles are stirred, and a second step of this first

component having added to it AMEO and/or bisphenol A as a second component before the suspension is heated.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The process according to at least one of claims 18 to 21 of claim 18, characterized in that wherein~~ the heating takes 1 second to 2 hours at temperatures from 50 to 650°C.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The process according to of claim 16 or 17,~~ wherein the suspension is solidified by treatment with UV rays when the sol is based on methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane (MEMO).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The process according to at least one of claims 16 to 23 of claim 16, wherein further comprising applying~~ an interlayer containing an adhesive, an adhesion promoter, a dye, printing inks or a binder ~~is applied~~.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~A-The process according to at least one of claims 16 to 24 of claim 16,~~ wherein the individual layers are applied to the base material in a roll-to-roll process.